

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Laura Sotomayor, and I am a resident of New Britain. I stand in support of HB 6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status.

I migrated to the United States 32 years ago. I lived in NYC for 16 years and had access to medical care due to the various healthcare programs provided by NYC to all its residents regardless of immigration status. However in 2006, I made the decision to move to the State of Connecticut. I soon realized that I was unable to seek medical assistance because undocumented immigrants were not eligible for health insurance and the cost of paying out of pocket was too high.

In 2019, I was granted permanent residency in the United States and was now eligible for health insurance through my husband's job. 13 years was how long I lived in the State of Connecticut without health insurance, without being able to visit a doctor and seek medical attention. However, the immigration process is too lengthy with no guarantee that legal permanent residency will be granted, therefore, no one should have to live for so many years in this state without access to health insurance. For years, our neighboring state of New York has provided everyone the right to healthcare, Connecticut being one of the wealthiest states in the country should be able to do the same.

Healthcare is a human right and our state should reflect that. Although HUSKY has been expanded to pregnant women and children up to the age of 12, I strongly believe that all children, adults and elderly should be able to put their health first without the fear of going bankrupt for doing so. I support HB 6616 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation.

Thank you for your time,

Laura Sotomayor